

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. In comparison to the prior version, claims 1, 5, 25, 27, and 30 are amended, claims 4, 11-20, and 26 are canceled, and claims 31-50 are new.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A product dispenser, comprising:
 - a container;
 - a holder held in said container for holding multiple units of a product;
 - a gate carried on said holder, said gate being selectively displaceable between an engaged position for retaining product in said holder within said chamber and an non-engaged position for dispensing a single unit of said product from said holder; [[and]]
 - a lock for securing said gate in said engaged position; and
 - a neutralizing device in proximity to the holder.
2. (Original) The product dispenser of claim 1, comprising: a controller in communication with said lock for regulating the movement of said gate.
3. (Original) The product dispenser of claim 1, comprising: a sensor for detecting tampering of said dispenser.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently Amended) A pill dispenser, comprising:
 - a container;
 - a holder having a first and second opening, said holder positioned substantially within

an interior of said container;

a displaceable gate positioned in communication with one opening of said holder;

a lock for preventing displacement of said gate;

a controller in communication with said lock for regulating the movement of said gate,
said controller includes at least one programmable microcontroller; and

a sensor in communication with the microcontroller, said sensor includes a conductive
loop encasing said dispenser.

6. (Original) The dispenser of claim 5, wherein said container includes at least one aperture in communication with one opening of said holder.

7. (Original) The dispenser of claim 6, wherein said holder is a chute having a substantially helical shape.

8. (Original) The dispenser of claim 5, wherein said dispenser includes a dispensing member having at least one aperture adapted for receiving a pill.

9. (Original) The dispenser of claim 8, wherein said aperture of said dispensing member is in communication with one opening of said holder.

10. (Original) The dispenser of claim 9, wherein said gate controls the movement of said dispensing member.

11.-20. (Canceled)

Appl. Ser. No. 10/573,342

Amendment dated December 21, 2007

Reply to Office Action mailed September 26, 2007

21. (Original) A pill dispenser, comprising:

a container having at least one aperture;

a dispensing member having at least one aperture adapted for receiving a pill;

a chute having a first and second opening, wherein at least one of said openings is in communication with said at least one aperture of said dispensing member, said chute positioned substantially within an interior of said container;

a gate controlling the movement of said dispensing member;

an actuator for repositioning the gate from an engaged position to a non-engaged position;

a button linked to said dispensing member for extending said dispensing member through said aperture of said container;

a controller including at least one programmable microcontroller to regulate the release of said pill from said chute; a sensor in communication with said microcontroller; a neutralizing device in proximity to the contents of said chute and said controller.

22. (Original) The pill dispenser of claim 21, wherein said dispenser is pressurized and said sensor comprises a pressure sensor capable of measuring an internal pressure of said container and an external pressure outside said container.

23. (Original) The pill dispenser of claim 22, wherein the neutralizing device is a flammable agent.

24. (Original) The pill dispenser of claim 21, wherein the neutralizing device is a flammable agent.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for dispensing pills, comprising:

determining a rate of release for a pill;

programming a pill dispenser to release said pill at said rate;

loading said dispenser with said pill;

sealing said dispenser;

releasing said pill at said programmed release rate;

detecting tampering of said dispenser; and

upon detection of tampering, neutralizing said pills in said dispenser via a neutralizing device.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 26~~claim 25, wherein the detecting step comprises a using a sensor in communication with a controller.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of pressurizing said dispenser.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the sensor comprises a pressure sensor capable of measuring an internal pressure in said dispenser and comparing said pressure with an external pressure outside said dispenser.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 26~~claim 25, wherein said neutralizing device comprises use of a flammable agent.

Appl. Ser. No. 10/573,342

Amendment dated December 21, 2007

Reply to Office Action mailed September 26, 2007

31. (New) A pill dispenser, comprising:

a container;

a holder having a first and second opening, said holder positioned substantially within an interior of said container;

a displaceable gate positioned in communication with one opening of said holder;

a lock for preventing displacement of said gate;

a controller in communication with said lock for regulating the movement of said gate, said controller includes at least one programmable microcontroller; and

a sensor in communication with the microcontroller, said sensor includes a pressure sensitive switch consisting of at least two layers of conductive material separated by a gap.

32. (New) The dispenser of claim 31, wherein said container includes at least one aperture in communication with one opening of said holder.

33. (New) The dispenser of claim 32, wherein said holder is a chute having a substantially helical shape.

34. (New) The dispenser of claim 31, wherein said dispenser includes a dispensing member having at least one aperture adapted for receiving a pill.

35. (New) The dispenser of claim 34, wherein said aperture of said dispensing member is in communication with one opening of said holder.

Appl. Ser. No. 10/573,342

Amendment dated December 21, 2007

Reply to Office Action mailed September 26, 2007

36. (New) The dispenser of claim 35, wherein said gate controls the movement of said dispensing member.

37. (New) A pill dispenser, comprising:

a container;

a holder having a first and second opening, said holder positioned substantially within an interior of said container;

a displaceable gate positioned in communication with one opening of said holder;

a lock for preventing displacement of said gate;

a controller in communication with said lock for regulating the movement of said gate, said controller includes at least one programmable microcontroller; and

a sensor in communication with the microcontroller, said pill dispenser is pressurized and said sensor comprises a pressure sensor capable of measuring an internal pressure of said container and an external pressure outside said container.

38. (New) The dispenser of claim 37, wherein said container includes at least one aperture in communication with one opening of said holder.

39. (New) The dispenser of claim 38, wherein said holder is a chute having a substantially helical shape.

40. (New) The dispenser of claim 37, wherein said dispenser includes a dispensing member having at least one aperture adapted for receiving a pill.

41. (New) The dispenser of claim 40, wherein said aperture of said dispensing member is in communication with one opening of said holder.

42. (New) The dispenser of claim 41, wherein said gate controls the movement of said dispensing member.

43. (New) A pill dispenser, comprising:

a container;

a holder having a first and second opening, said holder positioned substantially within an interior of said container;

a displaceable gate positioned in communication with one opening of said holder;

a lock for preventing displacement of said gate;

a controller in communication with said lock for regulating the movement of said gate, said controller includes at least one programmable microcontroller; and

a sensor in communication with the microcontroller, wherein said pill dispenser includes a neutralizing device in proximity to the holder.

44. (New) The dispenser of claim 43, wherein said container includes at least one aperture in communication with one opening of said holder.

45. (New) The dispenser of claim 44, wherein said holder is a chute having a substantially helical shape.

46. (New) The dispenser of claim 43, wherein said dispenser includes a dispensing member having at least one aperture adapted for receiving a pill.

47. (New) The dispenser of claim 46, wherein said aperture of said dispensing member is in communication with one opening of said holder.

Appl. Ser. No. 10/573,342

Amendment dated December 21, 2007

Reply to Office Action mailed September 26, 2007

48. (New) The dispenser of claim 47, wherein said gate controls the movement of said dispensing member.

49. (New) A pill dispenser, comprising:

a container;

a holder having a first and second opening, said holder positioned substantially within an interior of said container;

a displaceable gate positioned in communication with one opening of said holder;

a lock including an actuator and a solenoid for preventing displacement of said gate; and

a controller in communication with said lock for regulating the movement of said gate.

50. (New) A pill dispenser, comprising:

a container;

a holder having a first and second opening, said holder positioned substantially within an interior of said container;

a displaceable gate positioned in communication with one opening of said holder;

a lock for preventing displacement of said gate; and

a controller in communication with said lock for regulating the movement of said gate, said controller includes a timer to regulate the release of a pill.